

SENSITIVE

#26

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SITUATION(S) MESSAGE(S) LISTING

DATE 10/14/78//287

25X1

SITUATION: [REDACTED]
SUBJECT CATEGORY: OUT

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:

IMMEDIATE
Q 130134Z AUG 78 ZFF-1 ZFF-4 ZYH
FM THE WHITE HOUSE

TO SSD 23 AD MINNESOTA

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~~SECRET~~ SENSITIVE [REDACTED] WH81115Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: Nov 13, 13 AR 70-14
HISTORICAL COLLECTIONSDELIVER TO MAJOR JOHN MATHENY, MILITARY ASSISTANT
TO THE VICE PRESIDENTMEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT
FROM: BILL QUANDT
SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

1. SECRETARY VANCE'S TRIP

BOTH BEGIN AND SADAT IMMEDIATELY ACCEPTED THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO MEET WITH HIM AT CAMP DAVID. THE TALKS ARE NOW SCHEDULED TO START ON SEPTEMBER 6. BEGIN WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY DAYAN, WEIZMAN, YADIN, AND BARAK. SADAT WILL BRING KAMEL, BUT WE ARE NOT SURE ABOUT GAMASY. WE EXPECT THE TALKS TO LAST ABOUT 3-5 DAYS

ISRAEL

BEGIN WAS PERSONALLY VERY POSITIVE ABOUT THE IDEA, ALTHOUGH SOME ISRAELI'S FEAR THAT THE SUMMIT COULD PRODUCE PRESSURES ON BEGIN TO CHANGE HIS POSITION ON THE WEST BANK. IN PRIVATE TALKS WITH BEGIN, SECRETARY VANCE DETECTED A SLIGHT NOTE OF NEW FLEXIBILITY IN BEGIN'S ATTITUDE, ALTHOUGH IN LONGER SESSIONS BEGIN SHOWED NO GIVE AND INSISTED THAT ISRAEL MUST KEEP ALL OPTIONS OPEN, INCLUDING THE EVENTUAL ASSERTION OF ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ENTIRE WEST BANK/GAZA. DAYAN FEARS THAT AT CAMP DAVID SADAT WILL ONLY BE INTERESTED IN "PRINCIPLES" NOT PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS, AND DAYAN MAY BE TOYING WITH THE IDEA OF DEALING DIRECTLY WITH WEST BANK PALESTINIANS ON CONCRETE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WEST BANK/GAZA.

***** WHSR COMMENTS *****

VP, QUANDT

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State Department review completed

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EGYPT

SADAT SHOWED NO HESITATION IN AGREEING TO THE CAMP DAVID MEETING. HE WAS IN A POSITIVE, FRIENDLY MOOD, AND TOLD VANCE THAT HE HAD REACHED THE CONCLUSION HIMSELF THAT A SUMMIT MEETING WAS NEEDED. WHILE SADAT'S ADVISERS WERE VERY ANXIOUS ABOUT THE SUMMIT, SADAT HIMSELF WAS RELAXED AND PHILOSOPHICAL. IN THEIR JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE, SADAT AND SECRETARY VANCE BOTH CHARACTERIZED THE US ROLE AS THAT OF "FULL PARTNER", WHICH WHICH WE HAVE EXPLAINED AS MEANING A "FULL PARTNER IN THE PROCESS", NOT WITH ONE SIDE AGAINST THE OTHER.

PRESS REACTION

THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY VANCE HAVE RECEIVED A GREAT DEAL OF CREDIT FOR ARRANGING A MEETING BETWEEN BEGIN AND SADAT. INEVITABLY, QUESTIONS ARE ALSO BEING RAISED ABOUT THE RISKS OF FAILURE AND THE REAL DIFFICULTY OF NARROWING DIFFERENCES. THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN MUCH COMMENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AMERICAN PLAN BEING PRESENTED AT CAMP DAVID. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT THE STORY OF THE SUMMIT DID NOT LEAK UNTIL BOTH LEADERS HAD ACCEPTED THE INVITATIONS. ONLY AFTER CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS HAD BEEN INFORMED DID THE PRESS GET THE STORY A FEW HOURS BEFORE THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT.

SAUDI ROLE

PRIOR TO VANCE'S TRIP, WE HAD MIXED SIGNALS ON THE ROLE BEING PLAYED BY THE SAUDIS IN ENCOURAGING SADAT'S HARD POSITION. AT A MINIMUM, THE SAUDIS WERE DOING NOTHING TO RESTRAIN SADAT AND WERE GOING TO SOME LENGTHS TO URGE HIM TO REENTER THE ARAB FOLD. FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD WAS CLEARLY TAKING A TOUGHER STAND THAN FAHD. THE SECRETARY LET HIS DISPLEASURE BE KNOWN IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS, DESPITE SADAT'S ASSURANCE THAT THE SAUDIS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH HIS DECISION. AFTER THE SUMMIT WAS ANNOUNCED, WE ASKED FAHD TO ENDORSE IT PUBLICLY, WHICH HE DID, EXPRESSING HIS HOPE THAT IT WOULD SUCCEED.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CAMP DAVID

BY MID-WEEK WE SHOULD HAVE A CLEARER IDEA OF HOW THE TALKS AT CAMP DAVID WILL BE HANDLED.

2. LEBANON

FIGHTING HAS CONTINUED AROUND BEIRUT, WITH ONLY A BRIEF CEASEFIRE AND A LIMITED SYRIAN PULLBACK. WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO USE INFLUENCE WITH BOTH SIDES TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT, WITH ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS. THE CHRISTIAN EXTREMISTS CONTINUE TO FIRE ON THE SYRIANS, WHO THEN RESPOND WITH MASSIVE FORCE. THE MOST RECENT IDEA UNDER

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CONSIDERATION IS FOR THE SYRIANS TO WITHDRAW SOMEWHAT AND ALLOW LEBANESE UNITS TO REPLACE THEM IN THE VICINITY OF THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS.

IN THE SOUTH, A LEBANESE BATTALION HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DEPLOY TO TIBNIN BECAUSE OF THE OPPOSITION OF THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS. THIS HAS BEEN AN EMBARRASSMENT TO THE SARKIS GOVERNMENT, AND WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE ISRAELIS TO HELP GET THE FORCE DEPLOYED, THUS FAR WITHOUT SUCCESS.

BOTH THE EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS FEAR THAT THE SITUATION IN LEBANON COULD ERUPT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO JEOPARDIZE THE CAMP DAVID TALKS. THE ISRAELIS FEAR THAT SYRIA WILL DELIBERATELY MOVE AGAINST THE CHRISTIANS, COUNTING ON ISRAEL'S RESTRAINT PRIOR TO THE SUMMIT, OR HOPING TO FORCE AN ISRAELI REACTION WHICH COULD WRECK THE PEACE TALKS. THE ISRAELIS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WILL NOT SIT IDLY BY AND WATCH THEIR CHRISTIAN ALLIES BE MASSACRED.

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